

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1061

USDA/FAS

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE REACTION TO POSSIBLE REVIVAL OF U.S. SUGAR
QUOTAS

REF: MANILA 14741

1. FOLLOWING TRIPLING OF DUTY ON U.S. SUGAR IMPORTS, NEWS
REPORTS THAT U.S. SUGAR INDUSTRY IS SEEKING A RETURN TO MAR-
KET SHARE QUOTA SYSTEM EMBODIED IN THE DEFUNCT U.S. SUGAR
ACT HAVE BEEN WIDELY PUBLICISED IN LOCAL PRESS. THESE RE-
PORTS ARE BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN PHILIPPINE SUGAR CIRCLES,
AND THE EFFECT OF REINSTITUTION OF QUOTAS ON PHILIPPINE EX-
PORTS HAS BEEN WIDELY DISCUSSED.

2. IN GENERAL PHILIPPINE SUGAR INDUSTRY AND GOP ARE FAVOR-
ABLY DISPOSED TO A NEW SUGAR ACT ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT 1)
PHILIPPINE QUOTA WILL NOT BE LESS THAN THE 1.35 MILLION
TONS WHICH U.S. REFINERIES HAVE GUARANTEED TO PURCHASE
ANNUALLY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND 2) QUOTAS WILL ACT
TO RAISE THE U.S. DOMESTIC PRICE FOR REFINED SUGAR WHICH
WILL IN TURN INCREASE THE PRICE PAID THE PHILIPPINES UNDER
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THE TERMS OF THE FIVE-YEAR ("PARTICIPATION") CONTRACTS.

MANY IN PHILIPPINE SUGAR INDUSTRY LOOK BACK WITH NOSTALGIA TO HALCYON DAYS OF SUGAR ACT WHEN U.S. PROVIDED KNOWN MARKET WITH STABLE PRICES.

3. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY REACTION TO U.S. TARIFF RAISE REMAINS MUTED OWING TO LEAD PROVIDED BY MALACANANG PALACE AS WELL AS OFT REPEATED OBSERVATION THAT "PARTICIPATION" CONTRACTS SHOULD MITIGATE EFFECT OF HIGHER TARIFF OR QUOTAS. STULL

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